

DATE 3-28-07HB 844 Sign Out

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Subject: HB844**From:** "Dillon Implement" <dillonimp@bmt.net>**Date:** Tue, March 27, 2007 8:25 pm**To:** "Debby Barrett" <grt3177@smtel.com>**Priority:** Normal**Options:** [View Full Header](#) | [View Printable Version](#)

To: The Chairman and Members Of The Committee

For the record my name is David Schuett DVM

Address Dillon, MT

1. I am a veterinarian and have a large farm and ranch operation along with a John Deere and New Holland equipment dealership. We have approximately 12,000 irrigated acres with water from all different sources. My operation, my neighbors' operations and this entire area depends on water for our survival.

2. I would ask the committee to pass HB 844. It will get the groundwater permit process in the DNRC back on track. Since April of 06 the Supreme Court's decision has effectively shut down the DNRC permit process and caused many of us who had permits in the DNRC to be left in a state of limbo. We are unable to move forward after spending large amounts of money for the permit process. My own bill for hydrologists to meet the now suspended process is in excess of \$100,000. We had worked on those permits for almost three years when they were returned to us.

3. The appropriation of \$20,000 for the Bureau to gather information on the present status of water in the closed basins will only help in the future for correct and positive use of water and to preserve senior appropriator's rights. The allocation of \$50,000 for the interim water committee for further study and recommendations back to the 61st legislature can only be looked at as an investment in the future and to ensure that we get the correct and complete science of water usage.

4. I believe HB 844 does address the concerns of the TU Supreme Court decision and allows the permit process to begin.

5. As a senior water right holder in this Valley I believe HB 844 will protect my rights and allow responsible groundwater development as required in the Montana Constitution.

In a perfect world we could all sit back and wait for the next session unfortunately none of us have that option. The DNRC must be wasting an immense amount of money waiting since there is no permit process. People who depend on water for their livelihood and who have spent 100's of thousands of dollars sit and wait for a resolution. But as members of this committee you have the ability to start the process!

Thank you for your time and consideration,
David Schuett DVM